

species found in some of the Mediterranean countries. We shared the honours in taking two female *postradiata* Frohawk aberrations of *Maniola jurtina* Linn. and observed a number of others with the same tendency. Finally, Mr. Middleton took a freshly emerged specimen of *Thymelicus sylvestris* Poda with white ground colour, an extreme example of ab. *pallida* Tutt. Altogether a wonderful year for aberrations, and from reports received shared by many of our entomological friends.

PHYLLOCNISTIS XENIA HERING — ITS FOODPLANT AND LIFE HISTORY. — The purpose of this note is to add detail to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton's interesting paper (*Ent. Rec.*, **88**: 161-163). Though Hering states that *P. xenia* mines white poplar (*Populus alba*), the mined leaves in his herbarium so named are, in fact, of grey poplar (*P. canescens*). White poplar is more common than grey poplar in the coastal area of East Kent where *P. xenia* occurs and I have searched it in several localities without finding any trace of the mines of *P. xenia*. The evidence is that this species is restricted to grey poplar.

The mine of *P. xenia* has already been described in our literature in a paper written by Dr. S. Adamczewski while he was working at the British Museum (Natural History) immediately after the war (*Entomologist*, **80**: 135). He had found the mines near Warsaw in 1943. Following current European practice, he, like Hering, named the foodplant *P. alba*.

Adamczewski describes the mine as "very beautiful". I would go further and call it the most beautiful mine I have ever seen, especially when in the young terminal leaves of saplings which it prefers; the dark line of frass shows up vividly against the silvery background of the epidermal mine describing patterns of elegant symmetry. Unfortunately the leaves soon turn black when pressed for the herbarium.

Continental writers state that *P. xenia* is bivoltine (Hering, v-ix in two generations; Adamczewski, vi and ix-x). My first visit was made on 4.x.74 and on that date only old mines were in evidence. My second visit was on 11.vii.75 when mines were numerous in all stages of development. Further study is needed to find out whether we have one prolonged generation or two in this country. We also need to know whether *P. xenia*, like its congeners, overwinters as an adult.

Comparison between the mines of *P. xenia* and *Phyllocnistis labyrinthella* (Bjerkander) in the Hering herbarium has convinced me that they constitute two distinct species. I wonder if the larvae have ever been compared. That of *P. xenia* is pale yellow with the head and prothoracic plate of transparent, colourless chitin. That of *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* (Stephens) is pale green; like *P. xenia*, it has a colourless, transparent head but the prothoracic plate bears a black, more or less semi-circular marking. Possibly the larva of *P. labyrinthella* is equally distinctive. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.